

## **US FORUM CONNECTION #87, MARCH 2011**

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to each individual.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 100,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to [Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu](mailto:Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu). We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication. This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children.

### **APPROVED BUDGET AFFECTS EDUCATION TITLE IX – HIGH SCHOOL MEDICARE DONUT HOLE IS REDUCED IN 2011**

#### **APPROVED BUDGET AFFECTS EDUCATION**

As you've probably heard, Congress has approved and the President signed a spending bill for the remainder of the federal government's current fiscal year. Under this plan, which funds programs through the end of September 2011, the budget for Head Start will increase by \$340 million, and the budget for child care will increase by \$100 million. Also, a portion of the \$700 million allocated to Race to the Top will be available to be used in grants to states to improve their early care and education systems.

#### **TITLE IX – HIGH SCHOOL**

HR 458 introduced in February has been referred to the subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education. It deals with requiring high schools to report how they are complying to make sure that females have as equal an opportunity as males to participate in sports. Most high schools offer more opportunities for males to participate in sports. High school students who participate in sports have increased the opportunities of getting college athletics scholarships both in athletics or academics. Girls who have no opportunity to participate in a high school sport have a reduced chance to get a college scholarship. Since there was a similar bill in the Senate in the last session of Congress, presumably a similar bill will be introduced in the Senate before long. The two bills had different reporting procedures which would have to be resolved assuming each passes in its chamber of the Congress.

#### **MEDICARE DONUT HOLE IS REDUCED IN 2011**

Senior citizens who fall into the "Medicare Donut hole" – a coverage gap – will get a 50 percent discount on some prescription drugs when their bills exceed \$2700 retail cost. A new fee on drug makers will also be implemented to help pay for the change. The fine on withdrawing funds from a Health Savings Account for non-medical expenses will increase by 5 to 10 percent.

### **CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION** can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) (this is a toll free number). You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

**STATE GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION** can be obtained through

<http://www.emailyourgovernor.com/> Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the state legislature, state supreme court, congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration. PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY BE OUT OF DATE

**INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTED ON KEY BILLS**

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/>

**FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.**

Archival copies of the U.S. Forum Connection can be found at

<http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

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